

ACCOLADES

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

ARABIC STUDIES:
Meeting a Critical Need

CHASS in the Global Arena

International Programs
Take Students Far

Chile, China, & CHASS

The Gold We Wear

Milagros: Made in Mexico

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On the cover: The Arabic surrounding Nada Saymeh (Psychology, Spanish '08) translates as, "Knowledge is a light unto you." Nada participates in the Arabic Studies program. See p. 12.

Stay in touch! Find your class notes at www.chass.ncsu.edu/alumni. Please share your news and update your contact information using the online forms at this site.

NC State University is dedicated to equality of opportunity. The University does not condone discrimination against students, employees, or applicants in any form. NC State commits itself to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation. 27,000 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of 68¢ per copy.

WELCOME

Welcome to our newly expanded *Accolades*. Our new magazine format will bring you more stories concerning our student, faculty, and alumni accomplishments than our newsletter allowed. With more than 4,100 undergraduate majors, 700 graduate students, 450 faculty, and 25,000 alumni, there are many stories to tell.

In each issue, we will focus on a particular theme. This first issue highlights CHASS faculty, students, and alumni who are engaged in the world beyond our borders. Why focus on globalization? NC State's new strategic plan stresses the importance of preparing students for living and working within a global world. CHASS is central to this endeavor. We teach 15 foreign languages and global literatures; we study the history, politics, cultures and social systems of societies across the world; we investigate international patterns of communication; and we thoughtfully explore world philosophies and religions.

Our faculty's research informs the knowledge they share in the classroom, thus preparing our students to be competitive in the 21st century. Helping students become informed and responsible citizens who are prepared to understand and shape a new world order is a CHASS priority. We are proud of our faculty, students, and alumni who are grappling with some of the challenging issues that globalization entails.

We hope you're pleased with this new format. This magazine is for you, our alumni and friends. Please share your stories and news with us, from wherever you are in North Carolina, the nation, or around the world.

Toby L. Parcel

Toby L. Parcel
Dean



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHASS programs: global by nature & design	2
Students conduct research in Italy	5
Interdisciplinary symposium on global warming	6
Chile, China, & CHASS	8
Summer Institute in English.	10
Cultivating awareness about Darfur	11
Arabic studies: addressing a critical need	12
Gold mining's global effects	14
Poet Laureate Billy Collins visits campus	16
MFA grad's debut novel lands publishing deal. . .	18
First African-American alumna looks back	19
2006 distinguished alumnus Benny Suggs	20
Moving forward with Dean Toby Parcel.	22
Noted legal scholar delivers Pope lecture	23
Alumna receives historical birthday gift.	23
Alumna filmmaker creates documentary.	24
Faculty notes	25



CHASS: *global by nature & design*

*F*uture global leaders. World citizens. Understanding, living, and working in a global arena. CHASS is equipping students with the knowledge and experiences they need to succeed in an international environment.

“By their very nature, our departments are internationally oriented,” says CHASS Dean Toby Parcel. “The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the History Department, the School of International and Public Affairs—these are just the most obvious examples of our college’s global orientation. Within each of our departments, we are conducting international research and educating students about their global community.”

The college has designed programs and courses of study to deepen students’ understanding of and appreciation for the world they will inherit. “NC State students need to be equipped to live and work in a global world,” Parcel says.

“In CHASS, we are preparing our students to understand and appreciate societies beyond the borders of the United States. This will make them more productive in the workforce and better prepared for global citizenship.”

The college’s International Studies major, created just a year ago, already has 100 students enrolled. The interdisciplinary program is designed to help students understand the international environment and to make their own contributions in the wider world. Students select a focus on international relations, economics and ecology, cultural studies, or on a particular area of the world. Study abroad is more than an expectation: it’s part of this major’s graduation requirements.

International Programs

Anthropology professor Anne Schiller directs CHASS International Programs. “We are intent on helping students understand and embrace their status as citizens of the

world,” she says. “CHASS International Programs is a broad entity that approaches that task through a wide spectrum of activities and offerings.”

Schiller reels off examples, clearly enthusiastic about the program’s potential to inspire students to broaden their intellectual—and geographic—horizons. Through symposia, lectures, and workshops, International Programs provides ample educational and cultural opportunities for its students, and often, the community as well.

This semester, International Programs participated in an interdisciplinary symposium on global warming. IP sponsored a host of other speakers and activities, ranging from a professor of religion who spoke about the Darfur crisis to an anthropologist who explained how she lends her forensics expertise to international human rights work in Bosnia and Panama. A faculty member spoke about Chinese health practices and led students in a t’ai chi workshop. A recent fiesta attended by more than 200 students and faculty included a salsa dance class and live music.

Through its partnership with Alexander Global Village Residence Hall, International Programs sponsors Global Gateways, which enables students to travel with faculty experts to destinations with strong international associations. Last year, political scientist Andy Taylor led a group through Washington, DC, teaching students about American-style democracy and our government’s approach to international affairs. This year, journalism professor Bob Kochersberger took a group there to learn about the international media. In 2008, Schiller plans to take a group to Tuscany to explore identity and social change in Italy.

To learn more about CHASS International Programs, visit <http://internationalprograms.chass.ncsu.edu/>.

Study abroad

A number of CHASS faculty members direct summer or semester-long programs abroad for CHASS and other NC State students. “There is no better way to foster international understanding than by experiencing life firsthand in other societies and learning about their cultures,” Schiller says.

The college’s first semester-long study abroad program directed by a college faculty member got underway this fall. Schiller’s Florence Program in Contemporary Italian Society enables students to study at the Lorenzo de’Medici Institute.

The college is launching a new CHASS-sponsored international program this summer. Set in Burgundy and Paris, the program will explore tradition and innovations in art, architecture, and cuisine.

Some of the many other summer study abroad programs where CHASS faculty work with NC State students include:



Study abroad students take advantage of the chance to travel to many foreign destinations. Photo courtesy of Gena Olson.

Oxford: Participants in this 30-year-old program live in a Benedictine college, take courses from Oxford fellows and dons, and travel to London, Stonehenge, and Stratford.

Granada: Students work with archeologists from NC State, Great Britain and the Netherlands to collect, examine, and record cultural remains on the island of Carriacou.

Cuernavaca: Students live with Mexican families, take classes at the Universidad Internacional in Cuernavaca, and travel to Mexico City, Taxco, Acapulco, and other sites.

study abroad: the experience of a lifetime

Anne Kilby, a junior majoring in political science, participated in the first CHASS Florence semester abroad program this year. She had the experience of a lifetime. “It does take going there to observe or understand another culture. I learned so much through my interactions, travel, and real-life experiences.”

Kilby was far from fluent in Italian when she landed in Florence. There’s nothing like necessity—and hunger—to foster learning. She knew she had cleared a major hurdle when she could communicate with the Italian food vendors at the central market.

She relished her coursework, especially taking art history in the city of the Renaissance and seeing some of the world’s great masterpieces firsthand.

Italy heightened the Mount Airy, NC, native’s senses. “Everything was so different,” she says. “The smells, tastes, sounds, and colors . . . Wherever I went, I wanted to capture that image in my mind forever. Standing on the hills of Cinque Terre and looking over on the water brought tears to my eyes.”

Kilby is changed by her experiences abroad. “I am more observant. I notice everything, people, architecture, and landscapes in particular. I don’t pass anything by without looking.”

Careers with global connections

A graduate program within the School of Public and International Affairs prepares students for careers with global connections in business, government, nonprofits, and industry.

The Master of International Studies (MIS) program started 40 years ago as the Master of Technology and International Development. The interdisciplinary program now offers core courses in international relations, politics, law, and communication. Students create unique areas of specialization—from a geographical region such as Latin America, to an international topic like sustainable development, to a professional field such as public administration, or a technical specialty like agriculture.

“Our program’s success is a result of its interdisciplinary nature and the flexibility we provide as students identify their specializations,” says professor Heidi Hobbs, who directs the program. “Our membership in the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs gives us a place at the table with 52 of the best programs across the country and around the world.”

As the program has expanded in recent years, so has its enrollment, both in numbers and in cultural diversity. Current students and recent graduates represent India, Russia, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Mexico, and numerous states across the United States.

Opportunities for students have also expanded. Students have interned at the Croatian Embassy in Washington, DC, the Afghanistan Embassy in Cairo, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna, and the United Nations International Trade Center in Geneva, among others.

The MIS program has an excellent placement record: 100 percent of its graduates find employment within six months in government service, international business, nonprofit administration, and higher education administration, among other fields, in organizations across America and abroad.

Alumna Stephanie Kuck (MIS '99), vice consul for the U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Tobago addressed a 40th anniversary gathering of alumni earlier this year. Kuck credited her success to her academic studies at NC State, as well as the contacts she made through the MIS program. As a way of giving back during her recent visit, she met with students to discuss the realities of a career in the foreign service.

Learn more about the MIS program at <http://mis.chass.ncsu.edu>.



Students pose with a Turkish shepherd. Photo by Liz Miller

Ghana: This immersion program includes academic courses in culture and society at the University of Ghana at Legon. Seminars with Ghanaian scholars introduce students to Ghana’s language, history, politics, and economy.

Vienna: Students take German and study the art of Vienna. Side trips include Salzburg and Prague.

Melbourne: Students study travel writing as well as Australian art and culture as they explore Sydney, Tasmania, and the Grampians.

CHASS faculty are planning more study abroad programs, including a bioarchaeological field school in Thailand and an applied anthropology field school in Vietnam.

“Now, more than ever, our students are intimately connected to a world of possibilities and challenges,” Schiller says. “One of NC State’s goals is to prepare students to embrace opportunities to participate in and understand international events. What better way than study abroad?”



CHASS student Liz Miller befriended a family in Rila, Bulgaria.

RESEARCH SENDS STUDENTS TO ITALY

Finding the global within the local



Students Christina Gordon, Guna Shunmugamm, and Devki Gharpure studied the impact of immigration on Florence's famed San Lorenzo marketplace.

Olive oil, balsamic vinegar, biscotti, wines, prosciutto. Just the type of fare you'd expect to see in a Florentine marketplace.

But chutneys, curry paste, lemongrass, lentils, and hot sauces? And a cacophony of languages—Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, German, English, and Arabic—spoken by vendors and customers alike? For centuries, the San Lorenzo market was a quintessentially Florentine affair. Now it encompasses the sights, sounds, smells, and cultures of a world market and stands as a microcosm of global commerce.

Anthropologist Anne Schiller and some of her students have been studying the impact of immigration on the marketplace's social networks. Last summer, with grants from the NC State Office of Undergraduate Research, CHASS students Christina Gordon and Guna Shunmugamm worked as researchers in the marketplace. In the fall, they presented their findings at North Carolina's undergraduate research symposium. Now they're working with Schiller on two manuscripts they hope to publish.

The students spent a month conducting surveys and interviews in the marketplace. They heard stories of migration and of change, simmering hostilities and close friendships. They watched and listened and recorded their observations.

Gordon spent her mornings working alongside a Thai woman and her Florentine husband in an Italian food shop. Afternoons found her helping a Persian in his Italian leather shop. Her anthropological assignment: to understand the networks the locals and the migrants created for themselves.

Shunmugamm worked with a woman from South America and conducted extensive interviews with migrants working in the market. "Being an immigrant myself, I was fascinated to know how others felt," says the Singapore native. "I was curious about the obstacles they dealt with trying to make a living."

Their research revealed that the extraordinary transformation in the marketplace over the past two decades has increased the variety of available goods. Concurrently, it has increased culture clashes and competition between the local vendors and newer migrant vendors. Modernity and globalization have challenged the market's identity socially, physically and economically. Tourism, global market forces, local politics, and a massive influx of legal and illegal immigrants have all contributed to these inevitable changes.

"The world no longer has boundaries," Gordon says. "I asked one of my interviewees why he chose Florence as a place to start a career, and he said, 'I came to Italy and I liked it. So I stayed. That is how the world is now. You can become whatever you like.'"

Gordon says her Italian research served as confirmation of her career path. "I will pursue my interest in the movement of people across borders in my graduate studies," she says. "Ten years from now I hope that I will have defended my doctoral dissertation and be a professor of anthropology."

Shunmugamm is a chef who ran a catering business for 12 years. She intends to pursue a graduate degree to become a culinary anthropologist or food historian. "The chance to conduct research in Italy was incredible for me, both for my love of food, and my great interest in peoples of the world," she says. "Experiences like this open your mind to what migrants face in different parts of the world. Exposure to the cultures, experiences, and livelihoods of others helps students become more broadminded. I am grateful for the opportunity."



Florentine vendors have sold Italian fare in the San Lorenzo market for centuries. Sellers and buyers from around the world now populate the market.



By the end of the century, it will likely be hotter than at any point in the last two million years. The sweeping consequences of this change will determine the future of life on earth for generations to come.

Global warming has begun. We're already feeling the heat, seeing the seas rise, suffering through intensified storms.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently concluded that global warming will continue for centuries. The report warned that immediate action must be taken to prevent harmful consequences.

But global climate change is not the purview of scientists alone. Policy-makers, politicians, manufacturers, consumers—in short, all of us—need to understand and act as climatic shifts affect our planet.

In response to growing concerns, a number of departments and programs within CHASS joined forces with the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences to host a public, three-day symposium in February to examine both the cultural and scientific implications of global warming.

The interdisciplinary symposium brought together leading authorities from a variety of disciplines to share insights and foster understanding around climate change. "We are

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**CHASS co-hosts
a conference
on global
warming with
nationally
renowned experts.**

concerned with the interplay between science and politics that is manifest in global climate changes today," says CHASS Dean Toby Parcel. "We wonder, what are the stories of the people most immediately and directly affected by the climate changes that are occurring right now? What can we learn from them that can help us better understand this critical aspect of our world? How can their stories prepare us to take a stronger and more constructive role in effecting positive changes?"

"In our college, we are committed to taking an interdisciplinary approach to current problems, regardless of whether their origins are within the realm of science or in the realm of human society. We value interdisciplinary inquiry, and welcome the contributions of other academic partners as we work together to address the really big questions, those whose answers outstrip any one discipline."

Keynote speaker Elizabeth Kolbert is a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and author of the book, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*. She spoke of her travels to Alaska, Iceland, and the Netherlands, where she talked with men and women who are watching their world disappear.

Sociologists, writers, students, scientists, artists, political scientists, and others gathered for the interdisciplinary symposium.

She has also interviewed the nation's top scientists and leading politicians about what—if anything—can be done.

"We can make a difference provided we take responsibility," she told an audience of more than 500 people.

Kolbert's groundbreaking *Field Notes* has been called "the perfect primer on global warming." She walked her audience through the science and the studies on what is occurring to the ice on both poles, the melting of the permafrost in the northern climes, and the massive increases of carbon dioxide that are being pumped into the atmosphere.

"The sea ice is forming later and later," she said. Scientists are now predicting that the Arctic may be ice-free well before the end of the century.

Kolbert noted that human civilizations have only flourished in the past 10,000 years of relative climate stability. "Society begins to look a lot less like something purposeful, and a lot more like something contingent."

World-renowned chemical oceanographer David Archer was also a guest speaker. In his talk based on his new book, *Global Warming: Understand-*

ing the Forecast, the geophysical scientist and expert in climate change used humor and simple analogies to explain how environmental evidence and computer models can predict the intensity and effects of global warming over the next century. Archer was joined by a panel of faculty members from NC State's Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

The symposium devoted time to the social, political, and economic issues related to climate change in regions around the world. Participants heard from the following panel of experts:

Washington State University sociologist Andrew Jorgenson described how less-developed countries bear the brunt of greenhouse gas emissions generated by transnational production.

International policy analyst Elizabeth Bast, from Washington, DC's Friends of the Earth, focused on climate justice. Although Africa is the continent least responsible for climate change, it stands to suffer the consequences most severely.

Chris Russill, a rhetorician at the University of Minnesota, looked at how the debate itself is taking place. He explained the tipping point concept that



Keynote speaker Elizabeth Kolbert, staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

has recently become a way to focus public perceptions of danger.

The symposium also involved the fine arts community through a musical concert inspired by environmental concerns. NC State music faculty members J. Mark Searce and Rodney Waschka both presented works. Thomas Clark, dean of music at the NC School of the Arts, premiered *Fourth Angel*, a work commissioned for the symposium.

The work's title refers to Revelation 16:8, "The fourth angel emptied his bowl over the sun and it was made to scorch people with its flames." Clark says the angel is more broadly a metaphor for the force of nature. "The work is evocative of the natural world. I tried to recreate sunlight reflecting off glaciers, ice cascading into the ocean, solar radiance, sun-sparkles, and night sounds."

Echoing the theme of the three-day symposium, Clark also incorporated sounds to represent, in his words, "the human voice confronting the primordial forces of Nature."

The Global Climate Change symposium was funded in part by the Rolf Buchdahl Lecture Memorial Endowment and the Erika S. Fairchild Interdisciplinary Research Symposium.

Elizabeth Kolbert photo by Rebecca Bolte.



Scientists predict the Arctic may be ice-free before the century ends.

Gracia Navarro, dean of the College of Social Sciences at the Universidad de Concepción, brought a faculty delegation to CHASS to further develop a partnership between the two institutions.

CHILE CON CHASS: ES UN MUNDO PEQUEÑO*

On a map, Chile is miles away from North Carolina. But with recent agreements between CHASS and the Universidad de Concepción (UdeC) in southern Chile, that distance is dwindling. As a result of evolving relationships over the past several years, representatives from both schools are developing an exchange and dual-degree partnership that will enable faculty and students to work and study at either institution.



Stephen Wiley, an associate professor in the Department of Communication, has represented CHASS in the international institutional partnership. “The Universidad de Concepción is a great match for collaborative efforts with CHASS and with NC State,” Wiley says. “Both universities emphasize research; both are committed to developing robust, multifaceted linkages.”

Chilean counterparts agree. “The two schools are ideal partners,” says Iván Araya-

Gomez, PhD, director of the Office of Institutional and International Affairs at UdeC. “We hold similar views about academic standards, strategies and priorities for international cooperation based on mutual recognition, reciprocity, and benefits.”

Wiley and faculty across NC State have been developing student exchange programs, positions for visiting faculty, joint degree programs, and collaborative research projects. “Our goal is to deepen the international connections of both universities so that faculty and students will have more opportunities to gain experience in another part of the world,” Wiley says. “When we move beyond our own assumptions and engage in a cultural dialogue, we find greater intellectual breadth and friendship.”

Along with four faculty members from other NC State colleges, Wiley visited UdeC in August to become better acquainted with their humanities and social sciences faculty. The groups discussed joint research projects, academic mobility, and graduate and undergraduate student exchange. As a result, two NC State University students traveled to Chile this spring to take courses at UdeC.

CHASS returned the hospitality in February by hosting a delegation of four UdeC faculty, including the dean of

CHINESE CONNECTIONS

CHASS students and faculty will soon have more opportunities to explore the rapidly changing country of China. And more students from China will find their way to the academic halls of CHASS and other colleges at NC State.

The university is forging new partnerships with five Chinese universities, including the country's top three universities: Peking University, Tsinghua University, and Zhejiang University. Last fall, NC State signed international agreements that have exciting, wide-ranging implications for all the universities involved.

CHASS is integral to these new Chinese connections, which go well beyond study abroad. "NC State is uniquely positioned to deliver a multi-disciplinary education that combines the sciences and the humanities," says Provost Larry Nielsen. "The success of our initiatives in China and elsewhere abroad is dependent on strong linkages with CHASS. We are creating new avenues for our graduates to live and work in an increasingly global economy. And we are forging partnerships that will foster collaborative research, a healthy exchange of ideas, and enhanced appreciation for our diverse cultures."

Partnerships with universities in China will give CHASS and other NC State students the opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture for a summer, a semester, or a year while they take classes toward their degrees. A group of NC State students will begin their Chinese adventures this summer. Traveling with them will be political science professor Oliver Williams, who will teach the politics of China and U.S./China relations. Williams was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant in 2005-2006 to study the effects of economic change on political development with a team of scholars at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The new partnerships will bring more Chinese students to NC State. "Our campus is already comparatively diverse, but we want to broaden ourselves even more," says CHASS Dean Toby Parcel. "We look forward to welcoming more Chinese undergraduates and graduate students to our programs here. We will all benefit from the global perspective they will bring to campus."

UdeC's College of Social Sciences and the associate dean of its graduate school. The Chilean group met with CHASS faculty and administrators to refine the partnership and become better acquainted with their NC State colleagues, the campus, and city. The Chilean delegation presented specific proposals to CHASS' Department of Psychology and Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. At the close of the visit, the parties signed agreements for student and faculty exchange for teaching and research between the schools.

For his part, Wiley is leading a collaborative research project focused on the role played by transnational, national, and local forces in the formation of regional social space. He and other NC State faculty are working with Chilean colleagues to develop proposals for several large-scale external grants to support their research.

For CHASS students conducting research while immersed in a cross-cultural experience and language, the payoff extends beyond course credit. "Students who are fluent in another language and familiar with other cultures will have strong career and workplace advantages," Wiley says. "And since Spanish is the second most common language spoken in North Carolina, Spanish fluency is increasingly critical." Faculty are also becoming more vested in internationaliz-

ing their own research. "In almost every research tradition," says Wiley, "it's becoming harder to ignore transnational influences. Globalization is here to stay."

Like any promising new relationship, these are exciting times for Wiley, his CHASS colleagues, and their Chilean counterparts as they extend and deepen the connections between our colleges, communities, and cultures.



Students en route to the Universidad de Concepción library are greeted by this sculpture. Photo by Kim Priebe.

**IT'S A SMALL WORLD.*



They gather from all corners of the world: Mongolia, Afghanistan, China, Mexico, Poland, Nepal, the Ivory Coast, and other far-flung lands. They spend an intensive five weeks at NC State improving their English. They get a taste of life in the United States and a sense of the wide-ranging cultures welcomed here.

They're students in NC State's Summer Institute in English. In its 42 years, the institute has hosted thousands of international students.

"A friend and I looked for a university far from the Mexican border so we would be forced to practice our English," he recalls. "We found out about NC State's program through the Mexican embassy library and liked the variety of classes offered."

Zarate fondly remembers the institute. "We learned so much from each other. I think we all gained an appreciation and respect for each other's customs and beliefs."

He also gained the confidence to apply to graduate school at NC State. "I felt I could do the work, but I didn't think my English was strong enough until I came through the summer institute," he says. Zarate earned his master's degree in industrial engineering and returned to Mexico.

In 1989, he and his wife Susan Dudley Zarate (BA, '82, Spanish) returned to North Carolina. Zarate works as an environmental engineer for an engineering consulting company in the Research Triangle Park.

The Zarates co-founded the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (www.thencshp.org) to promote education among North Carolina's Hispanic young people. The nonprofit organizes conferences and stay-in-school campaigns, supports the NC

SUMMER INSTITUTE ATTRACTS STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

"The institute has drawn attention to the university from around the world," says Toby Brody, director of the institute and the CHASS English as a Second Language (ESL) program. "It's an incredibly rich experience for students, faculty, and community members alike."

Students, who range in age from teens to senior citizens, practice speaking, listening, and writing in English. They study pronunciation, presentation skills, and business English. Brody incorporates cultural and social events, too: Durham Bulls games, museum visits, and dinners with local families.

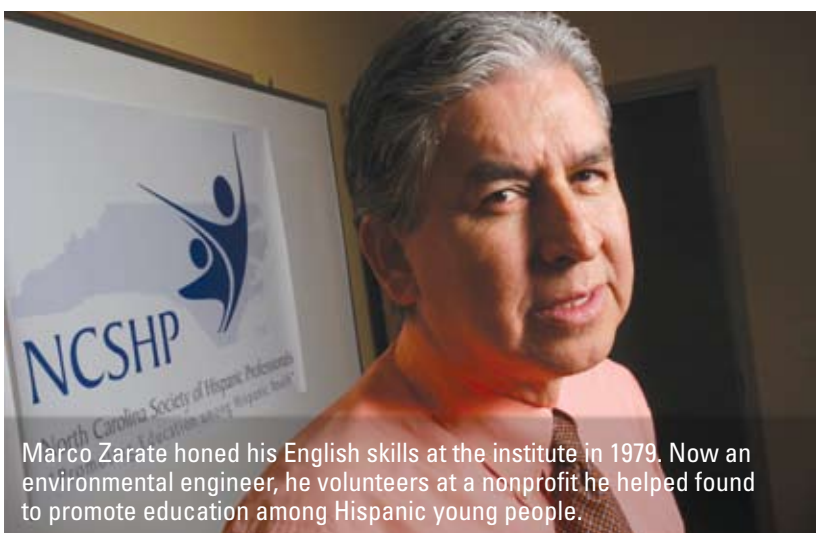
During an international night, students showcase their native cultures. "We might have a Japanese tea ceremony, a martial arts demonstration, musical presentations, or a performance of Latin American dances," she says. "We round out the cultural sharing with an all-American square dance."

Summer institute grad dedicated to serving others

Many institute participants—like Marco Zarate—later apply to NC State as undergraduate or graduate students. Zarate first came to the United States in 1979 from Mexico to attend the institute. He was 25, had a chemical engineering degree, and was thinking about graduate school.

Hispanic College Fund, and provides mentoring, tutoring, and advocacy. NC State hosts and helps sponsor the society's annual Hispanic Achievement Conference—the largest educational conference for Hispanic high-school students in North Carolina.

Marco Zarate could not have known where his summer experience 28 years ago would lead him professionally or personally. But he's grateful that the summer institute opened doors for him, and that in turn, he can do the same.



Marco Zarate honed his English skills at the institute in 1979. Now an environmental engineer, he volunteers at a nonprofit he helped found to promote education among Hispanic young people.

Darfur: Why Should We Care?

Cultivating awareness, compassion on campus

In an age filled with iPods, YouTube, ring tones, MySpace, and other distractions, it's easy to do nothing. War? Change the channel. Human rights travesties? Hit the remote. Genocide? Huh?

In the face of all that distraction, a standing-room-only crowd of 500 gathered to learn about Darfur, where more than 400,000 people have died.

Darfur Awareness Week was organized by political science students and Park scholars—supported by the School of Public and International Affairs and the Park Scholarship program—who were grappling with the four-year-old tragedy unfolding halfway around the world.

"We wanted to raise awareness of the conflict in Darfur," says senior Liz Miller, a Park Scholar and interdisciplinary major. "The first step in making a difference is to learn about the issues."

Sandy Kessler, associate professor of political science, worked with the student group. "We need informed idealists, people who are impassioned about righting wrongs, and making the world a more humane place," he says. "And we need to help them become grounded in the realities of the issues, and how they can effect change."

During Darfur Awareness Week, students hosted a panel discussion with Craig Brookins, director of Africana Studies; Andrew Reynolds, associate professor of political science at UNC-CH; U.S. diplomat Haywood Rankin; hydrogeologist Mansour Malik; and Darfur activist Scott Sutton. They screened the award-winning documentary, *Darfur Diaries*, and organized a discussion led by the department of religion's Anna Bigelow. They stood on the brickyard to raise aid money from fellow students.

Darfur Awareness Week culminated with a talk by Nicholas D. Kristof, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and columnist for *The New York Times*. More than 500 students, teachers, and community members packed the lecture hall to hear from the man widely credited with bringing the Darfur tragedy to the attention of the American public.

Kristof explained the complex factors causing Darfur to unravel: land rights, desertification, control of natural resources,



Student Liz Miller looks on as Nicholas D. Kristof speaks on campus. Photo by Matt Moore

political power, and ethnic identity. He told how the Sudanese government has promulgated a policy of genocide, through which they are eliminating or reducing in numbers the African tribes that live in this region of the Sudan. He shared stories of the men, women, and children he has met on his travels in Darfur.

"You see evil in Darfur," Kristof said, speaking of the murder, torture, and terror being visited on the people there. "In my years as a journalist, I thought I had seen a full kaleidoscope of horrors, from babies dying of malaria to Chinese troops shooting students to Indonesian mobs beheading people. But nothing prepared me for Darfur, where systematic murder, rape, and mutilation are taking place on a vast scale, based simply on the tribe of the victim. What I saw reminded me why people say that genocide is the worst evil of which human beings are capable. ...

The humanitarian crisis in Darfur only continues its downward spiral into chaos."

At the same time, Kristof said he has witnessed inspiring acts of courage that give him hope for humanity. He told his audience—many of whom he had moved to tears—that they too gave him hope. "The fact that you all came here to learn more about what's going on in your world speaks volumes," he said.

Liz Miller and her peers are determined to build on the momentum they created. "There's a big difference between people being concerned and actually doing something," she says. "We're hoping to form a club that can keep Darfur before the campus community. We would like to see students become more active on this and other human rights issues. We feel like we can make a difference."

Recommended reading:

Darfur: A Short History of a Long War, by Julie Flint and Alex de Waal

Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide, by Gérard Prunier

The Arabic Studies program attracts heritage and non-heritage students who want to learn the language.



Language of

CHASS is committed to offering more than just classroom instruction. NC State is currently the only university in the Triangle that offers a study-abroad program to the Middle East.

Jodi Khater, who directs the Arabic Studies program, says student interest in Arabic is impressive and continues to grow. Those enrolled represent a mixture of heritage students—those who were raised in Arabic households—and non-heritage students who, although they have no background in the region, are intrigued and want to learn more. Khater says that while Arabic has attracted a healthy number of heritage students at NC State, more non-heritage students take Arabic—and for many diverse and positive reasons.

For many of the heritage students, the program has become a sort of social anchor at NC State. “After 9/11, many students felt defensive,” Khater explains. “Even though most of them are native-born Americans, in today’s political climate it is common for them to feel a sense of alienation. Arabic class becomes a place where they are not seen as strangers; it feels like home.”

Unmotivated need not apply

Learning Arabic is not for the impatient or challenge averse. Arabic is what the Defense Language Institute calls a Category IV language. This category has four languages—Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Arabic—and one thing in common: they are the hardest. (Category I languages include Spanish, French and Italian.)

The students are bright and disciplined individuals, says Khater, and represent a range of degree programs. “It is extremely encouraging to see the enrollment numbers grow despite the general understanding that Arabic demands a rigorous course of study and long-term commitment,” says Khater.

The spoken language of over 323 million people in 22 countries, Arabic is the fifth most commonly spoken language in the world. It’s also one of the five official languages of the United Nations, and in its classical form, is the religious language of more than one billion Muslims. However, the number of Arabic speakers in our country is incredibly small.

Arabic has emerged as a critical language for Americans and others to comprehend, particularly with world events that surround the Middle East. But consider this: Of the 1,000 employees at the U.S. embassy’s Baghdad complex, only six are fluent in Arabic.

Students want to learn Arabic, but qualified instructors are few and far between. According to the *9/11 Commission Report*, in 2002, only six colleges and universities in the United States offered undergraduate degrees in Arabic.

Through its Arabic Studies Program, CHASS has stepped in to help fill the void. The program began in 2002 with 25 students. This year, 102 students are enrolled. This past year, student demand for Arabic language classes at NC State exceeded the number of available seats.



(left to right) Nada Saymeh, Laith Khalil, Sara Haddad, and Sam Dirani all participate in the Arabic Studies program.

millions spoken by few

Junior Jeremy Packard, an international studies major, says that once he got past the “really tough and scary” first month of learning the alphabet, Arabic was just like learning any other language. He also believes that getting to know his native-Arab classmates has helped his understanding of the language and the culture. “Going to dinner with my friends from Arabic class during Ramadan really showed me a lot,” he says. “People of Arabic heritage are very accepting of you just for showing interest—not necessarily expertise—in learning Arabic, so much so that it completely breaks down stereotypes.”

More than a conflict language

There is no argument that Arabic has come to the forefront because of the war in Iraq. Khater says that Arabic is indeed a critical language, but not just because of current conflicts. “Some may want to learn Arabic for national security reasons only; however, it should be more than that. To learn the language of a major region of the world and to gain access to its wonderfully diverse cultures and societies—that’s the greater reward.”

Until you can communicate with someone in their language, the ability to understand that person is very limited, says Khater. Before she learned to speak Arabic, the people she met while traveling in the Middle East were kind, generous, and accommodating, she says, but there was a wall. “When I learned Arabic, the wall came down. When you understand someone’s language, you can begin to understand their emotions, belief systems, and desires.” As a result, she adds, mutual respect and understanding develop in place of fear and misunderstanding.

Senior engineering student and Park Scholar Ben Gaddy sees only opportunity arising from the Arabic Studies Program. “It is remarkable that after only one year of studying what many consider to be one of the world’s most difficult languages, students can travel to the Middle East and communicate in a very real way with native speakers,” he says.

WHY ARE ARABIC STUDENTS TAKING ARABIC CLASS?

While most of the heritage students in NC State’s Arabic Studies program learned Arabic when they were young, they say that once they entered school and began speaking English, they stopped speaking their native language, and their skills faded. Speaking Arabic is challenge enough; the language has many dialects. Writing and reading it is equally challenging. Here, four NC State heritage students tell us why they are participating in the Arabic Studies Program.

Nada Saymeh (Psychology/Spanish, 2008) wants to become literate in her own language. “I can speak Arabic, but it’s colloquial and different from proper Arabic.”

Laith Khalil (Business/Computer Science, 2009) travels overseas frequently. By strengthening his speaking, reading, and writing skills, Khalil says he will enjoy his travels more. Khalil may move to Dubai when he graduates.

Sara Haddad (Biochemistry, 2010) is improving her Arabic so she can speak using the correct dialect. With a minor in middle-Eastern studies, Haddad says the program has been very helpful in her studies and language skills.

Sam Dirani (Biogenetics, 2001) is juggling Arabic class while he works on a master’s degree in Industrial Design. After moving to the United States from Lebanon at age six, Dirani started mixing his Arabic with English, and eventually lost most of his native language. His main goal in participating in the program is to learn to read Arabic, starting with the traffic signs he encounters when he returns to Lebanon.





The gold WE WEAR

Diamonds may be forever, but gold is forever changing the lives, land, and longevity of the Ipili, an indigenous people in highlands Papua New Guinea. Jerry Jacka, assistant professor of anthropology, is researching the impacts of multinational gold mining on the subsistence gardeners' lives, who just happen to have one of the world's largest goldmines on their homeland. The changes that have occurred since his first trip to the country in 1998 for his doctoral research have him concerned—and keep him going back.



In 1990, the Porgera Gold Mine began operations in Papua New Guinea. Within a few years, waste from the mine buried the alluvial mining beds that Ipili people had mined for the past 30 years.

A faculty research and professional development grant from CHASS allowed Jacka to return to the country for two months this past fall. While there, Jacka conducted research on the environmental changes driven by the population explosion in the Porgera Valley and the resulting onslaught of tree removal near the mine.

After living among the Ipili for a total of 16 months, Jacka developed an affinity for the people. "I've always been interested in international development and as an anthropologist, it's my

hope that some of my research can help improve the economy and outlook of this developing country."

As the most culturally diverse region on the planet, Papua New Guinea is a fascinating place for an anthropologist to work. Approximately one-sixth of all the world's languages are spoken there. And since most of the people were isolated from the outside world until after World War II, says Jacka, it offers an excellent opportunity to study cultural change among people only recently engaged with the global economic system.

Bows and arrows turned AK47s

Jacka says the impact of globalizing forces and mining is destroying the environmental and social fabric of the Papua New Guinea highlanders. "As 75% of the gold mined worldwide goes not to industrial applications, but to the jewelry industry, this is an unnecessary tragedy," he says.

Before the mine, the valley had a steady income from the artisanal and alluvial mining. "Today, huge amounts of money have poured into the valley from commercial mining, yet there is more unemployment, more social dysfunction, and greater environmental damage," says Jacka.

Along with roads, the mining has brought a surge of cash and semi-automatic weapons. While the Ipili have a long history of fighting, Jacka says that before the mines, war might be waged over a woman or a nut tree and fought with bows and arrows. Now, men openly parade with M16s and AK47s—and they're not agitated about nut trees. "With mining payments as high as \$250,000, the have-nots are violently attacking those who have," Jacka says. "It's a dangerous place to be." So dangerous, in fact, that Jacka had to cut his recent research trip short by five days. Six people were killed in the village while he was there—50 meters from the grass hut where he was staying.

Jacka's research shows that globalization is also corrupting the languages of the Ipili. Jacka says the native language—

Ipili—is rich in cultural nuances that are being lost. In the late 1980s, the population in the Porgera Valley was 8,000; the population now exceeds 35,000. Due to the influence of outsiders, the younger generation is speaking Tok Pisin or Melanesian pidgin, replacing the native language and all its inherent, subtle meanings.

The mountains are disappearing

With a waste dump that can be seen from Google Earth, chemical and environmental damage runs rampant in the valley. Seventeen thousand tons of sediment from the mining are dumped into the river each day, burying the alluvial beds that Ipili people mined for the past 30 years. Waste rock containing cyanide, heavy metals, and arsenic, along with traces of remaining gold, is dumped into the Porgera River valley.

Children, victims of rampant unemployment that is destroying household incomes, now pan for gold in water laden with toxic substances. Mercury, one of the most toxic substances known to man and easily bought at any small store in Porgera, is also widely used during panning to separate the gold from sand. The Ipili mix the poisonous concoction by hand and then cook the mixture, releasing the mercury into the air.

Jacka is watching and recording it all. When his research first brought him to Papua New Guinea, Jacka thought he would one day study the end of mining in the valley. Now, he's certain that won't happen. "Each time I go, a new mountain is gone." The mining effort is expected to continue for at least another 30 years. Jacka says the next strategy will be petroleum extraction and the removal of hardwoods.

Taking more than gold

Jacka wants to make the mining companies aware of the cultural and cosmological implications their activities have on the Ipili. The mining companies' cultural indifference is evidenced by their never having asked the Ipili where the gold came from or how it got into the ground. If they had, he says, they'd find that the Ipili believe a giant serpent covered in diamonds lives beneath the ground and sheds its skin, leaving gold in its wake. The Ipili also possess a very real fear that the mining companies are looking for the diamond snake, and once they find and remove it, the world will end.

When he's not in Porgera, Jacka maintains contact with the mining companies from his office at NC State. Half a world away, he writes e-mails and letters in his quest to effect change to the country's 1992 National Mining Act. He would like to see the act revised to mandate that the mining companies stop handing over six-figure cash payments to individual Ipili. To the Ipili, the mining money is not real or "money that they should eat," says Jacka. Instead of putting the cash to good use, they spend it on helicopter rentals,



Men pan for gold in the wasteland behind the processing plant.

alcohol, and sex junkets. Jacka wants the mining companies to instead pursue an ongoing commitment to the people by pumping the money into the valley's infrastructure.

Jacka is making progress: mining officials attended a recent talk he gave at the University of Papua New Guinea in the nation's capital. The officials left with the newfound knowledge that the fighting in the valley was over mining compensation payments. Jacka says before the talk, they had assumed it was just over traditional issues, adding, "They were quite surprised to find out that their compensation policies were driving a lot of the violence."

Jacka uses his work in Papua New Guinea to emphasize with his students that the decisions we each make have global ramifications. "Our cultural desires have profound impacts. When I teach, I want to impart that gold—this thing we've determined has so much cultural value that it drives our economic system—was for centuries just a rock on the ground to the Ipili. They saw it and left it there. Now we have this remote valley in central Papua New Guinea that has exploded with human desires because of the things we hold culturally valuable, in this case, gold jewelry."

For more information about Jerry Jacka's research on cultural and environmental change in Papua New Guinea, visit www4.ncsu.edu/~jkjacka/.

Photos by Jerry Jacka.

Jacka is writing a book that expands on his research. *Alchemy in the Rainforest: Development, Religion and Environmental Change in Highlands New Guinea* is slated for completion this summer. In the book, Jacka explores how gold mining and the spread of Christianity have influenced cultural and environmental change in the tropical rainforest community.



During a recent visit to campus, Poet Laureate Billy Collins chatted about poetry with NC State Poet-in-Residence John Balaban. Balaban faces the camera at right.

Q&A WITH POET LAUREATE BILLY COLLINS

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, one of America's best-selling poets, held a public reading at NC State for some 500 delighted listeners in January. Selected creative writing students had the added treat of spending a memorable afternoon in a workshop that Collins led.

NC State's poet-in-residence and creative writing professor, John Balaban, conducted this interview with Collins, in which Collins reflects on his tenure as poet laureate, his own work, and the current state of poetry in the United States.

JB: In 2001, you were named poet laureate of the United States. The position, always a great honor, was once called Poetry Consultant to the Library of Congress. Did anyone in Congress ever try to consult with you? What did you see as the job of the poet laureate? What did your Poetry 180 initiative seek to accomplish?

BC: Despite the former title of the position, no one in Congress, or any other branch of government—not even the Secretary of Agriculture—felt the need to consult with me during my tenure. With the position comes a lovely office—a suite of rooms really—at the top of the Jefferson Building with a balcony and direct view of the Capitol, and a secretary, and a phone, which never rang.

The job description for the poet laureate is mercifully brief. One could do virtually nothing while in office (and a few have come close to that). But so many of my predecessors took advantage of the position to create ambitious national initiatives, I would have felt guilty just swiveling on my office chair and staring at the Washington skyline for two years.

Poetry 180 was intended to expose high-school students (and finally any interested party) to how poetry sounds today without the burden and anxiety of analysis, tests, study questions and all the other panoply of teaching that can turn young people away from literature.

JB: Walt Whitman told us that to have great poetry it is necessary to have great audiences. How do you build an audience for poetry in the United States?

BC: The audience for poetry will never be very large unless we find a way to destroy television, movies, and recorded music. But as more palatable poetry is written, the more an audience for it will be sustained. People are thirsty for poetry, but many of them do not know that, and if they did, would not know how to quench their thirst.

JB: You once said that “poetry readings, once the province of a literary elite, are now ubiquitous. They occur as often as



Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.” You are reading at NC State, we are happy to note, on the evening of Jan. 30. What would someone get out of it, say, someone who has never heard a poetry reading?

BC: Poetry readings expose readers to the poet, for better or worse, but they also put readers in contact with other readers, and thus a temporary community is formed. Poetry is generally absorbed in privacy with a book; the public reading reminds us of the oral origins of poetry. Even if the poet is simply standing there reading from a book, there is the romantic illusion that the poems are pouring forth in acts.

JB: Robert Frost said, “no surprise for the writer; no surprise for the reader.” As a poet who seeks topics in the everyday, where does the surprise come from?

BC: How you surprise yourself is as paradoxical as a Zen koan. The idea is to keep the composing mind open, keep the sails up and the motor off so as to be available to any sudden gust. Surprise requires a light grip on the pen—a willingness to proceed in a direction without knowing where you are headed.

JB: The poet Stephen Dunn, quoted in Wikipedia no less, said, “We seem to always know where we are in a Billy Collins poem, but not necessarily where he is going.” Could you comment on “hospitality” and “surprise” in poetry?

BC: Hospitality in poetry means following certain rules of literary etiquette: writing in sentences, using standard punctuation, employing a helpful title, and for God’s sake, not throwing a sack over the reader’s head and hurling him down a flight of stairs, which is how a lot of contemporary poems made me feel. And if you think such manners are just too bourgeois, remind me next time not to hold the door for you.

You, Reader

I wonder how you are going to feel
when you find out
that I wrote this instead of you,

that it was I who got up early
to sit in the kitchen
and mention with a pen

the rain-soaked windows,
the ivy wallpaper,
and the goldfish circling in its bowl.

Go ahead and turn aside,
bite your lip and tear out the page,
but, listen—it was just a matter of time

before one of us happened
to notice the unlit candles
and the clock humming on the wall.

Plus, nothing happened that morning—
a song on the radio,
a car whistling along the road outside—

and I was only thinking
about the shakers of salt and pepper
that were standing side by side on a place mat.

I was wondering if they had become friends
after all these years
or if they were still strangers to one another

like you and I
who manage to be known and unknown
to each other at the same time—

me at this table with a bowl of pears,
you leaning in a doorway somewhere
near some blue hydrangeas, reading this.

Reprinted with permission by Billy Collins.
This poem appears in *The Trouble With Poetry and Other Poems*,
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SOUVENIR

IS A KEEPER

Fowler lives in Raleigh with her husband and two sons. She was a just-divorced single parent when she came to CHASS in 1997 to finish her undergraduate degree in sociology. Her long-term plan was to earn a PhD in sociology in order to do research and teach about contemporary social issues.

But life is sometimes stranger than fiction. In her last semester as an undergraduate student, Fowler signed up for a science fiction course taught by Professor John Kessel. She wrote her first-ever short story for her term paper. Fowler remembers the day Kessel, “told me flat-out that I had potential, and that gave me the courage to try writing my first novel.”

About that time, Fowler remarried. Her husband encouraged her to postpone work and graduate school to write that novel. She finished the first draft almost a year later. The literary agents who rejected the novel—and Fowler says there were many—offered encouragement, telling her it was ‘close.’

She had no formal training in writing, so she went back to the classroom. “John Kessel encouraged me to at least take some writing workshops, if not a degree program,” she recalls. “He helped me believe I might be able to write fiction.” Fowler enrolled full-time, deciding that a graduate degree and experience as a teaching assistant would give her teaching credentials, just in case writing didn’t pay the bills.

Fowler says her first writing workshop opened her eyes to the writing craft, “and I was hooked. I found every class stimulating, challenging, and educational. Each of my writing professors—John Kessel, Wilton Barnhardt, John Balaban, Angela Davis-Gardner, Elaine Orr—elucidated the process and the craft for me, all of them in different ways.”

She wrote a novel for her thesis, and although it earned her an agent, it didn’t sell. Undeterred, Fowler wrote another novel, *Souvenir*, and the rest of the story, as they say, is history.

Follow Therese Fowler’s writing at
www.theresefowler.com.

MFA graduate and major new talent Therese Fowler is working on her next novel, which she intends to finish this fall.

Fairy-tale endings are sometimes real. Just ask Therese Fowler, a 2005 graduate of the CHASS Masters of Fine Arts writing program. She wrote a novel in six months, and one week after it landed on her agent’s desk, she had a contract.

Make that nine contracts. *Souvenir* has so far earned Fowler book deals with Random House/Ballantine in the United States, and with publishing houses in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, Brazil, Denmark, Poland and Norway. The novel, which Fowler describes as, “a contemporary love story that explores the consequences of bad decisions made for very good reasons,” will debut in the United Kingdom in July 2007, and will be released in the United States January 2008.

Nurturing the Literary Community

A program that celebrates the power of an individual’s voice. Teachers and writers who inspire and guide those who seek to find their own voices. A place where students hone their craft and gain the confidence they need to call themselves writers. A literary well-spring that nurtures, delights, and enriches the wider community.

That’s how Nora Shepard describes NC State’s creative writing program. And she should know. Shepard earned her MFA in creative writing here in 2005, and now teaches beginning poets.

“I was held to high standards by some of the best writers in the country and these same writers are excellent and

caring teachers,” Shepard says. “The creative writing program is the base for a community of writers who can and will sustain the literary arts in the Triangle.”

Shepard and other dedicated volunteers are channeling their passion for the creative writing program to raise

Continued on p 25



The unflappable Norma Garcia

Unusually uneventful. Not the answer you'd expect from someone describing her experience as the first African-American female to graduate from NC State University. Yet that's precisely how Norma Wright Garcia (History '66) recalls her years at NC State during the powder-keg days of integration.

Although NC State was her first choice, no housing was available for women in 1962. So Garcia instead began her college career at St. Augustine's in Raleigh. As soon as NC State's first female dormitory was built in 1964, Garcia applied and was accepted.

From her first day, Garcia found her new classmates receptive. "We were all new, and it was the first year for the women's dorm," she says. "I never felt out of place. I met people in the

coming to class. The imperturbable Garcia's response? "Fine, you'll fail."

At NC State, the young history major became a self-described culture vulture, attending every event possible, including the London Symphony and the Philadelphia Philharmonic. Garcia credits her time at NC State for shaping her world view. "I met a lot of people from other countries who I never would have met had I stayed on the farm. My experiences at NC State made me more aware and interested in the world around me."

She also began a love affair with travel abroad, with a solo trip to Mexico following graduation in 1966. "I wanted to vacation, so I learned Spanish and off I went," says Garcia.

NC State's first African-American alumna returned to campus this year to help mark the university's 50th anniversary of admitting African-American students.

dorm, in my classes, in the cafeteria. What brought us together was what we had in common, not our skin color."

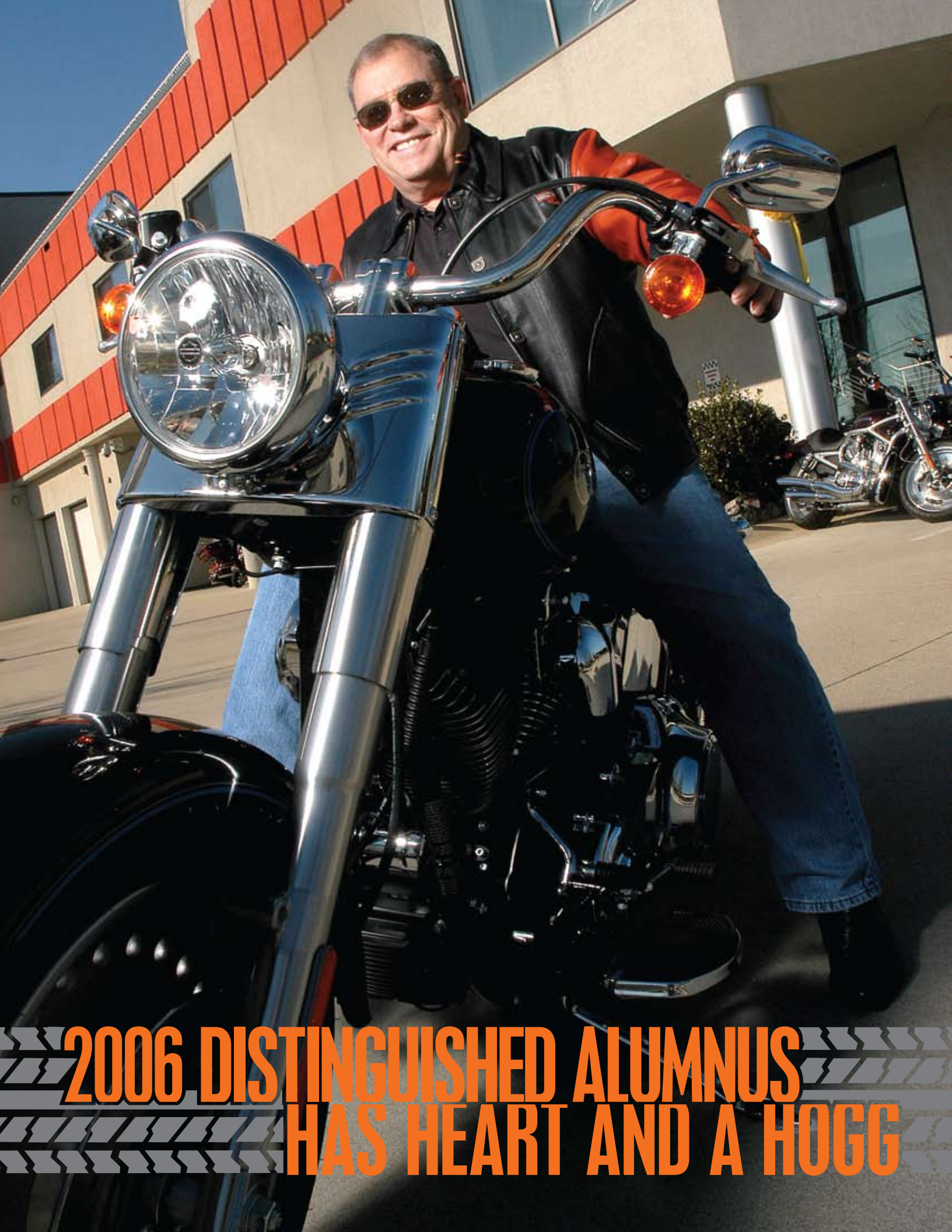
Perhaps it was Garcia's own attitude and the preparatory talks with her mother that made her assimilation into the previously all-white State College so uneventful. No doubt that was part of it, says Tracey Ray, Ph.D., department head of multicultural student affairs and director of African-American student affairs. But some of the credit can go to NC State's students, faculty, and leadership at the time. "NC State has a lot to be proud of when it comes to integration," says Ray. "There simply were not a lot of incidents on our campus like there were in other nearby schools or states. Administrators and faculty prepared the new students for the worst, but fortunately, the worst did not occur here."

Though less turbulent than other college campuses, NC State was not immune to intolerance. Garcia recalled a classmate who refused to sit next to her, and who, in protest, stopped

Following graduation and her Mexico trip, Garcia returned to her hometown of Willard, NC—but not to the farm where she grew up. Instead, for 25 years she taught children from K–12th grade and young adults at junior colleges. Again, the unflappable Norma Garcia surfaces when asked what it was like being the first—and only—African-American teacher. "I don't remember. It never really mattered to me. I just always fit in wherever I go."

After earning a master's degree in German from Wake Forest University, Garcia lived in Hamburg for six months. "My travels have taught me so much, and because of my history major, I've been able to appreciate the beauty of Italy, Rome, and the Vatican, the art of Paris, and the vibrancy of Honduras so much more since I know what I am looking for when I go."

Armed with confidence, curiosity—and lacking any pretenses—this barrier-breaking CHASS alumna has led a life full of travels, culture, teaching, family, and friends the world over.



**2006 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
HAS HEART AND A HOGG**

Retired Rear Admiral Benny Suggs has been around the world numerous times, but the journey that means the most to him is the one that recently brought him back to NC State University.

Named College of Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Alumnus 2006, Benny Suggs, Psychology '69, says, "To have the university think my career and commitment to the country is worthy of recognition makes me humble and proud. The past recipients are pretty fast company."

Suggs knows a thing or two about leadership having spent 30 years in the U.S. Navy. Among his many duties, during a six-month Persian Gulf deployment, he was responsible for training and overseeing 13,000 personnel who were flying—and landing—200 planes on 13 ships. He was also the number-two officer in charge of training our country's entire Special Operations forces of Seals, Delta Force, Rangers, Air Commandos and Green Berets.

Suggs credits his psychology degree from NC State for preparing him for his naval career. "Some might wonder how a psychology degree fits in with a career that is so dependent on technology" he says. "My degree gave me insights into human behavior and how to treat people with respect and dignity. I learned to communicate and make the tough calls—but in a way that earned respect and helped the people around me commit to leadership."

The highly decorated officer holds many awards, including five Legion of Merit Medals, Defense Meritorious and Distinguished Service Medals, and two Navy Commendation Medals. You don't have to dig too deep online to find kind words from sailors who served under Suggs aboard Attach Squadron, USS America: "Had a great time on the America. Capt. Suggs was probably the best Commanding Officer." "Benny...was a great leader of a great ship and crew. I'll miss that ship."

BENNY SUGGS' FIVE TRAITS OF A LEADER

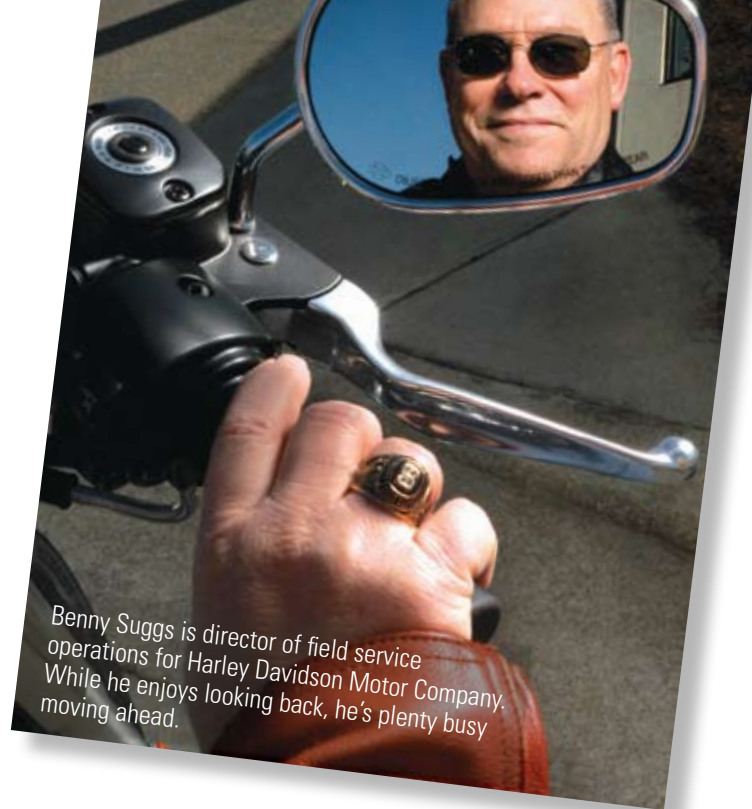
Vision backed by imagination that lets you communicate in a way that people understand. Let them see the colors, smell them and believe they're real; that what you are asking is something worth committing their very lives to.

Enthusiasm and passion for the mission and your part in it. Enjoy what you are doing. For Suggs, that meant flying jets and commanding battle groups. "With something so risky, you can't fake it," he says. "It's how I approach everything in life."

Determination to be 100 percent committed, where failure is not an option. When you take something on, commit 100 percent and you will succeed. If you can't fully commit, you shouldn't do it.

Sense of humor that acknowledges it's okay to mess up; it's okay to be embarrassed. When you can take the worst of situations and add humor, it can lift the team.

Heart is the most important trait of all, says Suggs. "It's the x-factor of over-achievement. Play hard even though you fail often. The way you play the game is, by itself, inspiring."



Benny Suggs is director of field service operations for Harley Davidson Motor Company. While he enjoys looking back, he's plenty busy moving ahead.

As a board member for the General Hugh Shelton Leadership Initiative, a program focusing on the importance of leadership development, Suggs works with fellow NC State alumni, coaching and mentoring students to become values-based leaders. Asked to participate in the initiative and work with fellow NC State alumnus Gen. Shelton, Suggs says he again feels humbled. "NC State produces some extremely talented and bright people who have made tremendous contributions. I am quite honored and proud to be considered of that caliber."

Top gun trades cockpit for the second ride of his life

How does an inveterate thrill-seeker top three decades of flying fighter jets? After he retired from the U.S. Navy in 2000, Benny Suggs responded with a one-two punch: first, he went to work for American motorcycle icon Harley Davidson, where he is the national director of field service operations. Then he met his wife, Kellie, and one year ago, they welcomed son Nicholas into their lives.

At Harley Davidson he works to create the best ownership experience possible. "A Harley Davidson bike is not transportation, it's rolling art. Our vision is simple—we create dreams through the experience of motorcycles," said Suggs.

At home with Kellie and Nicholas (whose closet Suggs says is an even mix of NC State red-and-white and Harley Davidson black-and-orange), Suggs works just as hard. "My current job at home is instilling in Nicholas a sense of commitment and how to have heart. You have to earn those things. You can buy everything else."

MOVING FORWARD

A talk with Toby Parcel, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.



You're new to NC State, still in your first year here. What are your first impressions of the state of CHASS?

These first few months have been exciting. The college is vibrant, with a strong faculty and wonderful students. Even with the heavy teaching load our faculty carry, they are doing outstanding research and winning national awards for the quality of their work. For the size and commitments of this college, our resources are far below where they need to be, so I feel fortunate to have arrived when the Achieve! Campaign is underway. It is my hope that the campaign's momentum and enthusiasm will focus our alumni and help generate the resources that are needed so very much.

Tell us about the Achieve! Campaign and how CHASS will benefit.

The campaign is a comprehensive effort for the entire university. The goal is \$1 billion, and the university surpassed that goal in December 2006. Our CHASS goal is \$12 million, and we have raised \$9.5 million. Our goal is lofty and we are

proud that we have met 76% of our goal with 18 months to go. In CHASS, the campaign supports scholarships for students, distinguished professorships, new programs such as the Institute for Nonprofits, and discretionary money at the college and the department levels. The benefits from this influx of private support will be immeasurable.

What is your personal view of the role of alumni and friends in building the needed resources?

In my experience, alumni and friends who get involved with their university gain so much personal enjoyment from making a difference. Our society and our universities are challenged to create the kind of world we want for ourselves and for our children. It's up to each of us to do what we can to contribute. The critical role of alumni and friends cannot be overstated, and in CHASS, funding from friends and alumni is more important now than ever. I've already been privileged to meet many wonderful CHASS donors. They all are acutely aware of the differences they're creating for future generations of students.

What advice would you give to alumni who are interested in supporting CHASS?

My first suggestion would be to get involved. Make sure we have up-to-date contact information and a current e-mail address for you. Send us information about what you're doing now. We want to know about you and stay connected with you.

Also, when you're thinking about how you can give back to your community, please consider giving to CHASS. We need alumni who, through their benevolence, will ensure that future generations can proudly call themselves CHASS alumni. All gifts, great and small, help us create new opportunities for our students. I'm asking each of our alumni to participate in the Achieve! Campaign. Together we can create a college that will meet the needs of the 21st century.

We are very grateful for all the support of our alumni and friends. I am looking forward to working together productively in the years ahead.

Stay in touch!

Share your news and update your contact information at www.chass.ncsu.edu/alumni

POPE LECTURE FOCUSES ON LAW AND ECONOMICS

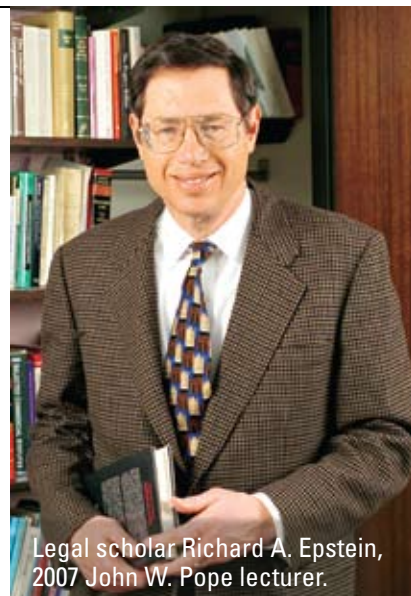
Leading legal scholar Richard A. Epstein visited NC State in March as the keynote guest of this year's John W. Pope Lecture Series. Epstein gave a public lecture based on his book, *Simple Rules for a Complex World*. He also held discussion sessions with undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty.

Epstein is the James Parker Hall Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, where he also directs the John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics.

The Olin Program is a multi-disciplinary center that explores the relationship between law and economics, says Andy Taylor, chair of the political science department in the School of Public and International Affairs. "The two disciplines are strongly connected," he says. "For example, legal rules have a profound impact on how we conduct business. Law schools recognize this,

and increasingly offer courses covering law and economics."

At NC State, a similar bridge between political science and economics has been created with funding from the Pope Foundation. That funding supports education and research in economics and public policy in the CHASS School of Public and International Affairs and the College of Management's Department of Economics. The John W. Pope Lecture Series is part of that activity. It also supports a campus student organization, the Society for Politics, Economics, and Law (SPEL), and other activities.



Legal scholar Richard A. Epstein, 2007 John W. Pope lecturer.

ALUMNA RECEIVES HISTORICAL BIRTHDAY GIFT

A week before his wife's birthday, Peter Stuart still hadn't figured out what to give her. Then he recalled her discussing an article from the Spring 2006 issue of *NC State* magazine about a recent graduate who had endowed a scholarship. The perfect gift idea hit him, he says. He created the Jennie Nardone Stuart Scholarship in the Department of History.

"I knew she would be thrilled with the idea that her name would forever be attached to NC State because she has such great memories of her time there," he says. "A scholarship is the perfect gift for her because she's caring and loves to help kids."

Jennie Stuart '98, a history major, says she was stunned by the gift, which was presented in the form of a framed letter from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' development office. A stay-at-home mother and former high school history teacher who lives in Huntington, NY, she says she would like the scholarships from the \$15,000 endowment to go to students with an interest in teaching middle- or high-school social studies.

"I attribute much of my love for teaching history to some of my professors at NC State," she says, citing the Department of History's associate professor Kenneth Vickery and professor Jonathan Ocko among her influences. "We need

to encourage more people to go into teaching. I hope this scholarship, in a small way, will help that."

By Matthew Burns. Reprinted from the Winter 2006 issue of NC State magazine, a benefit of membership in the Alumni Association.



Jennie Stuart was stunned when her husband Peter created a history scholarship in her name.

Milagros: Made in Mexico



Monique Velásquez traveled to rural Mexico to create a documentary about how migration affects those south of the border.

When Monique Velásquez (Speech Comm. '88) traveled to Mexico last year, she took her milagro with her. "Milagros, literally, means miracles. But in the Latino community, they are also small charms of various shapes that symbolize your concerns or your prayers," she explains. "You offer up your milagros as a way of holding up your hopes for a miracle."

4 Women in Film, a cooperative of women filmmakers based in Durham, NC, set off for Mexico in 2006 to create a documentary showing the effects of migration from the Mexican side of the border.

The milagro they carried with them? A heart. "This project was so close to our hearts," says Velásquez, who was producer, director, videographer, and editor. "We are very concerned that as the debates over immigration are intensifying in the United States, some important questions aren't being asked. Here is a culture where family means everything—where separating a father or mother from their children is sheer heartbreak. So why are people migrating? What happens when a country's economy fails, when its economy is dependent on outside money? What impact is that migration having on Mexico? We wanted to show the issue from south of the border. We wanted to hear the voices of the Latinos."

The 60-minute documentary features the women of small rural communities in the Bajío region of Mexico and their response to the emerging challenges of globalization. The film captures the major cultural shifts underway as women step out of their traditional roles to become entrepreneurs in their "manless" villages. One woman describes the cooperative of doll makers she organized. Another group runs a small cajeta factory, making and selling the traditional Mexican confections. Others sew, weave, or embroider materials and create culture-specific crafts. Viewers sense the Mexicans' love of their land, and of family, their drive to pull themselves out of poverty and provide for their children.

The film is aptly named *Milagros: Made in Mexico*.

"We met so many women who had great faith, who were hoping for milagros—or miracles—to improve the economy in their communities enough to bring back their husbands, their sons, and to recreate their families," Velásquez says.

The movie had its North Carolina premiere at NC State's Witherspoon Cinema during the 20th annual Latino Film Festival last fall. Since then, the film—and its creators—have criss-crossed the country to talk about the film and the issues it raises. "We have visited many universities where researchers are studying global economies, Latin American issues, and the effects of globalization on women and communities," Velásquez says. "We are hearing over and over from academics that this is an important topic that has not been discussed outside academic circles. I'm so pleased our project is expanding the conversation."

When she's not on the road with her documentary, the CHASS alumna runs her own business: Velásquez Digital Media Communications, the only Latino-owned video production company in NC. "I draw a lot on what I learned in classes at NC State that have helped me tremendously as a business person," she says. "And as a humanities major, you understand your civic duty. I do a lot of work for the state of North Carolina and for nonprofits in disseminating information of interest to Latino and other populations."

Velásquez takes great pride in being an NC State alumna. "When I visit Notre Dame, Cal State Irvine, San Diego State, Michigan, Texas—any of these other great schools—I tell them I was trained by excellent professors. I am grateful to have the critical thinking and technical skills that enable me to provide a voice for Hispanics and Latinos and to fully participate in the national conversation underway about their presence here."

A front-page article in the *Wall Street Journal* quoted Psychology Professor **Tom Hess** about the “upside of aging.” Hess’ research shows that older adults are more likely to ignore irrelevant information when asked to judge a person’s character, and to infer correctly whether a person is dishonest, kind, or intelligent.



Holly Brewer

Historian **Holly Brewer** has won the 2006 J. Willard Hurst Prize from the Law and Society Association and the 2006 Cromwell Prize from the American Society for Legal History for her book, *By Birth or Consent: Children, Law, and the Anglo-American Revolution in Authority*. Brewer’s study places children and childhood at the center of a fundamental shift in the meaning of consent in 17th and 18th century Anglo-America.

CHASS welcomes **Chris Pierce**, professor of philosophy, as interim director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program (WGS). Pierce has an 18-year affiliation with the program, and has served as its director for two previous periods. Many thanks to outgoing director **Cat Warren**, associate professor of English, for her commendable service, particularly for overseeing the approval process for the newly-approved WGS major.

Roger Mitchell, associate professor of psychology, earned “paper of the year” in the journal *Health Education and Behavior*. His research focused on nutrition education among low-income older adults. The paper was co-authored by Drs. Sarah Ash and Jacqueline McClelland.

Mark Sosower, professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, is producing new catalogues of

FACULTY NOTES

Greek manuscripts in European libraries based in Oxford, England; Toledo, Spain; and Munich, Germany.

Psychology Professor **Denis Gray** presented a paper about team science at the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). His research looks at how organizational and other factors impact the success of scientists working in team-oriented research projects. “The concept of team science is a promising venture,” Gray says. “But the conditions under which the results are generated are a lot more complicated than most people realize.”



Denis Gray

John Begeny, assistant professor of psychology, received a \$10,000 seed grant from the university’s Office of Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development to expand the reading program he designed to improve reading fluency among public-school second graders.



S. Thomas Parker

Harvard University Press has published historian **S. Thomas Parker’s** two-volume report, *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan, Final Report on the Limes Arabicus Project*. The report is the culmination of 26 years of work involving archaeological excavation surveys of hundreds of sites, and research analysis of the Roman frontier east of the Dead Sea in modern Jordan.

NURTURING (cont. from p. 18) funds that will enable the program to add needed faculty and to compete nationally for the best student writers.

She and her committee are building on strength: NC State’s top-notch creative writing faculty includes internationally-known novelists Wilton Barnhardt, John Kessel, and Jill McCorkle and poet John Balaban. The program is attracting students from across the country. Faculty are committed to working closely with students as they establish their writing careers, through quality instruction,

support with fellowships, and counsel on publishing opportunities.

“Our goal is to develop and sustain a creative writing program that is among the strongest in the South,” says Barnhardt, who directs the MFA program. “Along with its traditional excellence in the sciences, NC State has encouraged literary excellence and creative writing for many years. We are building on that tradition to nurture a literary community that will not only enrich the life of this university, but also enhance the cultural life of the Triangle.”

Shepard echoes his vision. “This program can be no less a force than the masterpieces at the North Carolina Museum of Art, the music of the North Carolina Symphony, and the performances of Carolina Ballet. It belongs with the best North Carolina has to offer.”

If you are interested in supporting the creative writing program, please return the envelope found in this magazine. You can also simply log onto GiveTo.CHASS.ncsu.edu. Or call Kathy Whaley at 919.515.5973.

Oh, the places you'll go! Since she enrolled at NC State, Park Scholar Liz Miller has traveled to 23 countries. Here, she and fellow adventurer Jeff Le stand before the pyramids of Giza outside Cairo, Egypt, where they traveled during a study abroad semester in Ghana.



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